Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended)   A method of identifying a test strip having a set of test pads, said method comprising:

    A.   ~~impinging on~~ illuminating said set of test pads <u>with</u> at least one test signal having a wavelength;

    B.   detecting a set of reflected signals from said set of test pads;

    C.   generating an image ~~comprised of~~ <u>comprising</u> a set of reflectance values derived from said set of reflected signals<u>, and counting said test pad reflectance values to determine a test pad count and determining a test strip format as a function of said test pad count</u>;

    D.   determining a test pad type from the image for at least one test pad from the set of test pads by comparing a reflectance value associated with the test pad with a set of reference reflectance values, wherein each of said reference reflectance values corresponds to said wavelength and is associated with a different reference test pad type; and

    E.   identifying said test strip as a function of a set of determined test pad types.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one test signal is a test signal from an LED light source.

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3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one test signal is a plurality of test signals generated from a set of LEDs, wherein each LED in said set of LEDs is configured to transmit light at a different wavelength.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein step C includes determining a test pad reflectance value for each test pad in said set of test pads.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein step C includes determining a test pad order from said test pad reflectance values.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein step D includes selecting said set of reference reflectance values as a function of a test pad position in said test pad order.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein step B includes creating a pixel-based image of

said test strip from said reflected signals.   I

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said pixel-based image comprises a plurality of pixel sets and each pixel set corresponds to a different test pad.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including:

F.   determining a test result for the at least one test pad as a function of the reflectance value.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of identifying a test product having a test region, said method comprising:

A.   ~~impinging on~~ illuminating said set of test pads with at least one test signal having a wavelength;

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    B.   detecting a set of reflected signals from said test region with a matrix of pixel-based detectors and creating a pixel-based image of said test region, wherein said pixel-based image comprises a plurality of pixel sets and each pixel set corresponds to a different test area from said test region, wherein generating an image includes counting test pad reflectance values to determine a test pad count and determining a test strip format as a function of said test pad count;

    C.   determining, from said pixel-based image, a reflectance value for at least one test area from said test region;

    D.   determining a test product type by comparing a reflectance value associated with the at least one test area with a set of reference reflectance values, wherein each of said reference reflectance values corresponds to said wavelength and is associated with a different reference test area type; and

    E.   identifying said test product as a function of a set of determined test area types.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the test product is a test strip and the test areas are test pads on the test strip.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the test product is a reagent cassette and the test areas include one or more of a test line, control line and reference in the test region.

14. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying a test strip including a set of test pads, said system comprising:

    A.   media having data indicative of a plurality of reference test strips and of a set of spectral signatures, wherein each of said spectral signatures is associated with a reference test pad type and includes a reference reflectance value at each of a plurality of wavelengths;

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B. a set of test signal generators configured to ~~impinge on~~ illuminate said set of test pads with at least one test signal having a known wavelength;

C. a matrix of pixel-based detectors, configured to detect reflected signals from said set of test pads and to create a pixel-based image of said test strip, wherein said pixel-based image comprises a plurality of pixel sets and each pixel set corresponds to a different test pad on said test strip;

D. a translator configured to determine a reflectance value for at least one test pad from said set of test pads from the pixel based image;

E. a pad typing module configured to compare said reflectance value with a set of reference reflectance values from said set of spectral signatures for said wavelength to determine a test pad type; and

F. an identification module, configured to identify said test strip as a function of a set of test pad types determined by said pad typing module and to count said test pad reflectance values to determine a test pad count and determining a test strip format as a function of said test pad count.

15. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying a test strip including a set of test pads, said system comprising:

A. media having data indicative of a plurality of reference test strips and of a plurality of sets of reference reflectance values, wherein each set of reflectance values is associated with a reference test pad type and a reference wavelengths;

B. a set of test signal generators configured to ~~impinge on~~ illuminate said set of test pads with at least one test signal having a known test wavelength;

C.   one or more detectors configured to generate an image of the test strip from the reflected signals;

D.   a translator configured to determine a reflectance value from said image for at least one test pad from said set of test pads;

E.   a pad typing module configured to compare said reflectance value with said sets of reference reflectance values for said test signal wavelength to determine a test pad type; and

F.   an identification module, configured to identify said test strip as a function of a set of test pad types determined by said pad typing module <u>and to count said test pad reflectance values to determine a test pad count and determining a test strip format as a function of said test pad count</u>.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein said at least one test signal is a test signal from an LED light source.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein said at least one test signal is a plurality of test signals generated from a set of LEDs, wherein each LED in said set of LEDs is configured to transmit light at different a wavelength.

18. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein said translator is configured to determine a test pad reflectance value for each of said test pads.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said pad typing module is configured to determine a test pad count as a function of said test pad reflectance values and said pad typing module is further configured to determine a test strip format as a function of said test pad count.

20. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein said translator is configured to determine a test pad reflectance value for each of said test pads and said pad typing module is further configured to determine a test pad order as a function of said test pad reflectance values.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein said pad typing module is further configured to apply a selected set of reference reflectance values as a function of a test pad position in said test pad order.

22. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein said detectors are configured to create a pixel- based image of said test strip from said reflected signals.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein said pixel-based image comprises a plurality of pixel sets and each pixel set corresponds to a different test pad.

24. (Original) The system of claim 15, further comprising:

F.   a test conduct module, configured to determine a test result for the at least one test pad as a function of the reflectance value.

25. (Currently Amended) A reflectometer for identifying a test strip including a set of test pads, said reflectometer comprising:

A.   media having data indicative of a plurality of reference test strips and of a

set of spectral signatures, wherein each of said spectral signatures is

associated with a reference pad type and includes a reference reflectance

value at each of a plurality of wavelengths;

B.   a set of light emitting diodes (LEDs) configured to impinge on illuminate said set of

test pads with at least one test signal having a known wavelength;

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C.   one or more charge coupled device (CCD) detectors, configured to detect reflected signals from said set of test pads and to create a pixel-based image of said test strip, wherein said pixel-based image comprises a plurality of pixel sets and each pixel set corresponds to a different test pad on said test strip;

D.   a translator configured to determine a reflectance value for at least one test pad from said set of test pads from the pixel-based image;

E.   a pad typing module coupled to said one or more CCD detectors and configured to compare said reflectance value with a set of reference reflectance values for said wavelength to determine a test pad type; and

F.   an identification module, configured to identify said test strip as a function of a set of pad types determined by said pad typing module and to count said test pad reflectance values to determine a test pad count and determining a test strip format as a function of said test pad count.

26. (Original) The system of claim 25, further comprising:

F.   a test conduct module, configured to determine a test result for said at least one test pad as a function of the reflectance value.

27. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein said translator is configured to determine a reflectance value for each of said test pads.

28. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein said pad typing module is configured to determine a test pad count as a function of said reflectance values and is further configured to determine a test strip format as a function of said test pad count.

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29. (Original) The system of claim 25, wherein said translator is configured to determine a reflectance value for each of said test pads and said pad typing module is further configured to determine a test pad order as a function of said reflectance values.

30. (Currently Amended) A system for identifying a test product including a test region comprised of one or more test areas, said system comprising:

    A.   media having data indicative of a plurality of reference test products, including reference reflectance values and reference wavelengths for each test area, wherein for each reference wavelength there is a set of reference reflectance values;

    B.   a set of test signal generators configured to ~~impinge on~~ <u>illuminate</u> said test region <u>with</u> at least one test signal having a test wavelength;

    C.   one or more detectors configured to generate an image of the test region from the reflected signals;

    D.   a translator configured to determine a reflectance value from said image for at least one test area;

    E.   a typing module configured to compare said reflectance value and the test wavelength with the reference reflectance values having a reference wavelength substantially equal to the test wavelength to determine a test area type; and

    F.   an identification module, configured to identify said test product as a function of a set of test area types determined by said typing module <u>and to count said test pad reflectance values to determine a test pad count and determining a test strip format as a function of said test pad count.</u>

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the test product is a test strip and the test areas are test pads on the test strip.

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32. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the test product is a reagent cassette and the test areas include one or more of a test line, control line and reference in the test region.

33. (Currently Amended) A computer program product including computer-readable instructions resident in a computer-readable medium configured for storage in a memory and for execution by at least one computer processor to identify a test product having a set of test regions, said computer program the computer-readable instructions comprising:

> A.   a test signal control module configured for causing a set of light sources to impinge on illuminate a set of test regions with at least one test signal having a wavelength;

> B.   a detector module configured for causing a detector to detect a set of reflected signals from said set of test regions;

> C.   an image generating module configured for generating an image comprising a set of reflectance values derived from said set of reflected signals;

> D.   a typing module configured for determining a test region type from the image for at least one test region from the set of test regions by comparing a reflectance value associated with the test region with a set of reference reflectance values, wherein each of said reference reflectance values corresponds to said wavelength and is associated with a different reference test region type; and

> E.   a test product identification module configured for identifying said test product as a function of a set of determined test region types and to count said test pad reflectance values to determine a test pad count and determining a test strip format as a function of said test pad count.

34. (Currently Amended) A computer program product as in claim 33, wherein the test product is a test strip and the test regions are test pads.